GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3327
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the countries where a large number of children are mentally challenged;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the city-wise number of such children in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(d) the financial assistance provided during the last three years and till date in order to tackle this problem ; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle this growing problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) : As per Census of India 2001, the number of children in the age group 0-14 years suffering from mental disabilities in India is 5,34,818 (Male - 3,12,908; Female - 2,21,910).

The most common reasons for mental retardation in our country include severe maternal malnutrition, iodine deficiency, inadequate pre and perinatal care and socio- cognitive deprivation.

(c) The number of mentally challenged children in the metropolitan cities is not centrally maintained.

(d) A statement indicating financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for rehabilitation services of the persons with mental disabilities is annexed.

(e):The Central Government supplements the efforts o f the State Governments in promoting mental health care. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government`s National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, strengthen the 37 Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and research and training. So far 94 districts have been covered under the DMHP; funds have been released for upgradation of psychiatric wings of 9 medical colleges and strengthening of one mental health institute. Further, funds have also been released for undertaking research and IEC activities.

ANNEXURE

Statement refered in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Question No. 3327 for answer on 17.8.2005 reg. Financial Assistance for Mentally Challenged Children

Details of Financial Assistance provided by the Government for providing Rehabilitation Services to the Persons with Mental Disabilities

Scheme	Amounts Released (Rs. in lakhs)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (i.e. till 13.08.2005)
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	2848.62	2543.10	2659.12	432.40

(implemented through NGOs)

Scheme for Community Based Training of Caregivers 78.33 62.03 41.90 4.94

(implemented through National Trust for Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities)

Reach and Relief Scheme 366.44 67.78 407.01 46.20

(implemented through above National Trust)

State Nodal Agency Centres (SNAC) - 14.16 40.53 4.5

(implemented through above National Trust)

Guardianship Scheme - 7.8 6.42 0

(implemented through above National Trust)